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*Attorneys for Plaintiffs*

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA  
GREAT FALLS DIVISION

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JACKSON WELLS, as Personal  
Representative for the Estate of  
THOMAS E. WELLS, deceased; and  
JUDITH HEMPHILL, as Personal  
Representative for the Estate of  
JOYCE H. WALDER, deceased,  
Plaintiffs,  
vs.  
BNSF RAILWAY COMPANY,  
Defendant.

CV-21-97-GF-BMM  
**PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE TO  
DEFENDANT BNSF RAILWAY  
COMPANY'S MOTION TO  
STRIKE PLAINTIFFS' RESPONSE  
TO DEFENDANT BNSF RAILWAY  
COMPANY'S OBJECTIONS TO  
PLAINTIFFS' BILL OF COSTS**

Plaintiffs Jackson Wells, as Personal Representative for the Estate of Thomas E. Wells, deceased, and Judith Hemphill, as Personal Representative for the Estate of Joyce H. Walder, deceased, by and through counsel of record, respectfully submit the following *Response to Defendant BNSF Railway Company's Motion to Strike Plaintiffs' Response to Defendant BNSF Railway Company's Objections to Plaintiffs' Bill of Costs*.

The plain language of Local Rule 54.1 neither provides for nor prohibits Plaintiffs' previous *Response to Defendant BNSF Railway Company's Objections to Plaintiffs' Bill of Costs*. But if it did, it would most certainly also prohibit BNSF's eight-page "sur-reply" submitted as the instant motion. Because BNSF cites no authority for the relief requested, BNSF's *Motion to Strike* should be denied as wholly lacking in merit.

Because BNSF's ostensible motion is primarily a sur-reply to *Plaintiffs' Bill of Costs* —and Plaintiffs do not wish to inundate the Court any further by fully briefing the issues newly raised in BNSF's instant motion—Plaintiffs respectfully submit courtesy copies of the following authorities with highlights expressly showing that Plaintiffs correctly relied on these authorities in their response and that the criticism in BNSF's *Motion to Strike*—of Plaintiffs' handling of these cases—is wrong: **Exhibit 1** (*San Diego Police Officers' Ass'n v. San Diego City Employees' Retirement System*, 568 F.3d 725 (9th Cir. 2009)), **Exhibit 2** (*d'Hedouville v.*

*Pioneer Hotel Co.*, 552 F.2d 886 (9th Cir. 1977)), **Exhibit 3** (*K-2 Ski Co. v. Head Ski Co., Inc.*, 506 F.2d 471 (9th Cir. 1974)), **Exhibit 4** (*Hines v. Perez*, 242 F.2d 459, 466 (9th Cir. 1957)), **Exhibit 5** (*Arredondo v. City of Billings*, No. CV-98-62-BLG-RWA, 2007 WL 43967, (D. Mont. Jan. 5, 2007)), and **Exhibit 6** (*Grove v. Wells Fargo Financial California, Inc.*, 606 F.3d 577 (9th Cir. 2010)).

Additionally, since the filing of *Plaintiffs' Bill of Costs* and *Plaintiffs' Reply* in support thereof, the Montana Federal District Court recently addressed the meaning of "prevailing party." **Exhibit 7** (*BNSF Railway Company v. The Center for Asbestos Related Disease Inc.*, Cause No. CV-19-40-M-DLC (Order 5/28/24)), p. 4 ("Here, there is no dispute that BNSF is a prevailing party under the FCA. Although the jury did not find for BNSF on all claims, the jury returned a verdict in BNSF's favor and judgment was entered in BNSF's favor.").

Respectfully submitted this 30<sup>th</sup> day of May 2024.

McGARVEY LAW

/s/ Jinnifer Mariman  
Jinnifer Mariman  
Attorney for Plaintiffs